AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated:

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A method comprising:

holding, in a cache memory in a front-end server, at least one operation request directed from a client device to a NAS (Network Attached Storage) server, the client device and the NAS server being coupled via the front-end server;

receiving, at a client operation processing unit in the front-end server, said at least one operation request from the client device;

performing, in the client operation processing unit, an operation based on said at least one operation request by using cache data stored in the cache memory;

creating, in a data change reflection processing unit in the front-end server, at least one operation sequence, the created at least one operation sequence being a result of an operation performed by the client operation processing unit in response to the received at least one operation request from the client device; and

transmitting, by the data change reflection processing unit, the created at least one operation sequence to the NAS server;

wherein, in response to a determination that multiple operation requests from the client device are compatible for merging, the client operation processing unit synthesizes a plurality of the operation requests received from the client device into one combined operation request, and the client operation processing unit executes the combined operation request using the cache data in the front-end server to create the created at least one operation sequence.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the created at least one operation sequence sent to the NAS server is a directive to directly change data stored in the NAS server,

the directive based on results of the client operation processing unit executing the combined operation request using data in the cache memory in the front-end server.

18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein in response to a determination that multiple operation requests from the client device are compatible for merging, the client operation processing unit synthesizes a plurality of the operation requests received from the client device into one combined operation request, and wherein the created operation sequence sent to the NAS server is the combined operation request to be executed by the NAS server using data stored in the NAS server.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the series of instructions are pipelined when sent to the NAS server for parallel execution.

20. (original)The method of claim 15, wherein the cache memory is a non-volatile recording medium.